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University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "UM Dining Services earns national awards" (1998). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 15515.
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NEWS RELEASE

July 23, 1998

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UM DINING SERVICES EARNS NATIONAL AWARDS

MISSOULA--

Dining Services at The University of Montana-Missoula received a grand prize during the National Association of College & University Food Services (NACUFS) convention July 7-11 in Anaheim, Calif.

UM received the award in the Catering Special Event category during the 25th annual Loyal E. Horton Dining Awards Contest. Grand prize winners in seven categories were selected from among 49 award winners. A total of 126 entries were submitted.

UM received a first-place award for medium-sized schools and then the overall grand prize for catering the Region VIII NACUFS Conference, held at UM in the spring of 1997. The conference, titled "Ride of Your Life," used the American Indian cycle-of-life philosophy as its theme.

"Not a detail was overlooked," said Mark LoParco, UM Dining Services director. "The theme was creatively carried throughout the conference with everything from shuttle rides to the education sessions, to the unbelievable culinary experiences."

UM also received a second-place award in the Residence Hall Dining Special Event -- Theme Dinner category for medium-sized schools. The award was for an educational dining experience titled "Feast of the Sunflower Planting Moon" in April 1997. American Indian spirituality and culture were represented by displays and authentic Indian foods.

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Other institutions receiving grand prizes were the University of North Texas and Harvard, Tufts, Utah State, Vanderbilt and Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State universities.

Open to all institutional members of NACUFS, the contest is a highly competitive and prestigious peer recognition program that draws entries from NACUFS institutions throughout the United States, Canada and abroad. The contest was created to promote creativity and sound nutrition in areas such as food presentation, menu variety and merchandising. The event is named for Loyal E. Horton, a former NACUFS president and founding member.

NACUFS is the only higher education association in the United States devoted exclusively to promoting the highest quality of food service at member institutions. NACUFS supports its institutional and industry members with education, training, technical assistance, industry information, scholarships and research support.

UM Dining Services has received six international dining awards, and University chefs have received American Culinary Federation Chef of the Year Awards.

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